



Census Subjects

CENSUS 2000

Simpler, More Accurate, Less Costly

The following six questions will be asked of everyone.

- ✱ **AGE**asked since 1800
Age is central for any number of Federal programs that target funds or services to children, working-age adults, women of childbearing age, or the elderly.
- ✱ **GENDER**asked since 1790
Census data about gender are critical because so many Federal programs must differentiate between males and females. Laws to promote equal employment opportunity for women also require census data on gender.
- ✱ **RELATIONSHIP**asked since 1880
The census subject about relationship is essential for classifying the population into families and other groups.
- ✱ **MARITAL STATUS**asked since 1880
Planning and implementing many government programs calls for accurate information on marital status, such as the numbers of married women in the labor force, elderly widowed individuals, or young single people who soon may establish homes of their own.
- ✱ **RACE**asked since 1790
Race is key to implementing any number of Federal laws and is a critical factor in the basic research behind numerous policies.
- ✱ **HISPANIC ORIGIN**asked since 1970
This information is needed to determine compliance with provisions of anti-discrimination in employment and minority recruitment legislation.
- ✱ **NEW SUBJECT**for Census 2000

The following questions will be asked on a sample basis.

GRANDPARENTS AS CAREGIVERS

This subject complies with legislation recently passed in the 104th Congress requiring the census to obtain information about grandparents who have primary responsibility for the care of their grandchildren.

- ✱ **YEAR STRUCTURE BUILT**asked since 1940
The year the structure was built determines the age of housing units. Data about the age of housing in conjunction with other census information are used to develop state per capita income estimates which are used in the allocations formulas or eligibility criteria of more than 20 Federal programs.
- ✱ **UNITS IN STRUCTURE**asked since 1940
The number of units in the structure subdivides the housing inventory into one-family homes, apartments, and mobile homes. When combined with other census items this serves as the basic identifier of housing used in many Federal programs.
- ✱ **ROOMS**asked since 1940
Data about the number of persons per room is used to measure the extent of overcrowding among our Nation's households. The number of rooms in a home also is used as a measure of housing-unit size in the absence of information on square footage.
- ✱ **DISABILITY**asked 1830-1930, 1970-1990
Information on disability is used to distribute funds and develop programs for people with disabilities and the elderly.
- ✱ **LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME**asked 1890-1940, 1960-1990
This is for agencies serving the needs of the foreign born and those having difficulty with English
- ✱ **EDUCATION**enrollment asked since 1850, attainment asked since 1940
Data about school enrollment and educational attainment are required by law for profiling the socioeconomic conditions of school-age children.

- ✱ **ANCESTRY**asked since 1980
Ancestry identifies the ethnic origins of the population, and agencies regard this information as essential for fulfilling many important needs. These data are needed to measure the social and economic characteristics of ethnic groups and to tailor services to accommodate cultural differences.

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✱ BEDROOMS.....asked since 1960

This information is useful in tracking changes in the physical characteristics of the housing inventory over time. The number of bedrooms also is an indicator of housing units size.

✱ KITCHEN FACILITIES.....asked since 1960

Complete kitchen facilities are defined as a sink with piped water, a range, and a refrigerator. Agencies use this to identify areas eligible for housing assistance and rehabilitation loans, and as an indicator of housing quality.

✱ PLUMBING FACILITIES.....asked since 1940

Complete plumbing facilities are defined as hot and cold running water, a flush toilet, and a bathtub or shower. Agencies use this to identify areas eligible for public assistance programs and rehabilitation loans. Public health officials use this item to locate areas in danger of ground water contamination and waterborne diseases.

✱ HOME HEATING FUELasked since 1940

This has long been used as a basic indicator of the adequacy of the American housing stock. This provides information on energy supply and consumption.

✱ TELEPHONE IN UNITasked since 1980

Lack of telephone service is an important measure of social isolation. The information is used to assess the level of need among elderly, low-income, and handicapped households. This also measure the extent of universal access to phone service.

✱ YEAR MOVED INTO UNIT.....asked since 1960

This provides information on the specific period of time when mobility occurs, especially for recent movers. Also measures neighborhood stability and helps identify transient communities.

✱ FARM RESIDENCEasked since 1970

Farm population is identified based on the number of acres and volume of sales of agricultural products.

✱ TENURE.....asked since 1890

Tenure (whether a home is owned or rented) is the most basic feature of the housing inventory. Homeownership rates have served as an indicator to the economy for decades. It's also used in calculating homeownership and rental vacancy rates to evaluate the overall viability of local housing markets.

✱ VALUEasked since 1930

The value of home and property is an important

measure of neighborhood quality, housing affordability, and wealth.

✱ SELECTED MONTHLY

OWNER COSTSasked since 1960

Selected monthly owner costs such as mortgage payments and utilities are a measure of the cost of homeownership. Combined with income, this offers an excellent measure of affordability and excessive shelter costs.

✱ RENTasked since 1930

Rent is an essential measure of shelter costs. Rents amounts are critical for the establishment of fair market rents.

✱ RESIDENCE 5 YEARS AGOasked since 1960

Residence five years ago is used to assess the residential stability and the effects of migration in both urban and rural areas. It also provides information on the mobility of each individual.

✱ PLACE OF BIRTH, CITIZENSHIP AND YEAR OF ENTRYplace of birth asked 1850 citizenship asked 1820-1830, 1870, 1890-1990 year of entry asked 1890-1930, 1970-1990

These subjects provide essential data for setting and evaluating immigration policies and laws. This helps legislators and others understand how different immigrant groups are assimilated.

✱ INCOMEasked since 1940

Income is a critical topic, as it is a vital measure of general economic circumstances. This information is used to determine poverty status, to measure economic well-being, and to assess the need for assistance.

✱ LABOR FORCE.....asked since 1930

This is key to understanding work and unemployment patterns and the availability of workers.

✱ VETERAN STATUSasked 1840, 1890, 1910, 1930-1990

This is used to measure the needs of veterans and to evaluate the impact of veterans' programs dealing with education, employment, and health care.

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